CLOSE UP

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FEATURES:

People & Places
Pages 1 & 2

Meeting Information
Page 3

Nature Calls
Page 3

Contact Information
Page 4

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Forest Park
by Judy Colombini

PEOPLE & PLACES

Share and Show

Last month we attempted to restart ***Share and Show***. However, with new procedures and an earlier deadline, we did not receive many submissions. We will try again this month. The deadline for submissions is **Friday, May 17th by midnight.**

To participate, prepare a maximum of **four (4) nature-related images**. Please be sure to follow these steps:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high. Horizontal images should be 768 pixels wide.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Name your resized images with your name, the year and the month of the meeting. For example: Membername-1305-1 for the first image. Follow that protocol for each of the four images you submit.
- Place your four resized images in their own folder, also with your name and the month of the meeting.
- Compress or "zip" the folder. To zip files on a Mac with OS X, right click on the file folder. Select Compress. For a PC, the steps are much the same. Right click on the folder. Select "Send to" then "Compressed folder". In both cases, the system will compress the files, which will take a few moments.
- Attach your zipped folder to an email message and send your images to **share@monep.org by midnight on the Friday the week prior to the meeting.** The deadline for May is Friday the 17th.

The theme for this month is **Springtime**.

MoNEP Speakers

Recruiting speakers for our monthly meetings requires a lot of time, effort and creative thinking on the part of the MoNEP program co-chairs, **Ken Biddle** and **Scott Avetta**. Although we have some speakers return every year or so, Ken and Scott are always looking for new and fresh programs. If you have any ideas about potential presenters, the program co-chairs would be happy to hear from you and to consider your recommendation. Please contact either Ken or Scott with your suggestions. Their emails are **kdbiddle@swbell.net** and **scottavetta@hotmail.com**.

It would be ideal if members could send their suggestions including the person's name, their subject area and their contact information. Please include any additional information that you can provide. Among other qualities, we look for speakers who have a history of doing public presentations or teaching. Remember that many of our programs run between 45 minutes and an hour and that we do not expect our nature related speakers to always have professional level images. Thanks for your help in identifying possible future MoNEP presenters.

Cades Cove - Spring
Rich Merz

Member News

Vearl Brown has two images being used in different publications. His amazing image of a sun bear showing its remarkably long tongue has been picked up for the second time by ***National Geographic KIDS*** magazine for a special edition. Additionally, one of his images has been used in a display panel on bald eagles for the **Illinois Department of Natural Resources**. Congratulations, Vearl!

Michelle Jones and **Don Morice** have some of their work on display and for sale at the Visitor's Center in Kimmswick this month.

Fran and Chuck Mannis are among the photographers whose work will be on display later this month in an exhibit, ***The South Island Exposed: Images of New Zealand***. The exhibit, curated by trip leader, **Stewart Halperin**, will be at the **Chesterfield Arts Center** from **May 24th to June 7th**. The Opening Reception is May 24th from 6-8 p.m. Chesterfield Arts is located at 444 Chesterfield Center. For information visit **www.chesterfieldarts.org** or call **636-519-1955**.

Clarence Cannon NWR Photo Contest

Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will hold a photo contest to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the refuge. Amateur and professional photographers may submit photos from April 1st to September 6th, 2013 in the categories of wildlife, plants, and landscapes. Winning photos will be featured in a 2014, 50th anniversary edition calendar. All photos will be displayed on the refuge website and at the visitor center during special events.

Photographs taken at the Clarence Cannon NWR up to two years prior to the contest, no earlier than April 1, 2011, will be accepted for submission. Contestants may enter three photos in each category for a total of nine photos per person. A digital and print copy must be submitted for each photo. For more information go to: **www.fws.gov/refuge/clarence_cannon.**

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"It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart."

~ Rainer Maria Rilke
Czech Author
1875-1926

April Meeting Recap

The stunning **Audubon Center at Riverlands**, which opened last year, was the culmination of years of planning by the **National Audubon Society** and **Audubon Missouri**. Leading that effort for over five years was **Dr. Patricia Hagen**, the featured speaker at our April meeting and the Center's Executive Director.

The mission of The Audubon Center at Riverlands is "to connect people to the beauty and significance of the Mississippi River and the Great Rivers confluence, to inspire conservation of the river's rich diversity in birds, wildlife and other natural resources, and to support healthy, vibrant communities."

Dr. Hagen provided us with an overview of the ecological importance of the Riverlands area and its surrounding habitats. The Center is situated amidst 3,700 acres of restored prairie, marsh and forest, which are part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Designated an ***Important Bird Area***, the Riverlands is part of the the Mississippi Flyway, a vitally important bird migration route for nearly 325 species of birds.

The Mississippi River is a meandering river that people have tried to tame

April meeting cont'd.

since early European settlement. In the 1880's the Army Corps of Engineers took over the task of building an organized levee system. Levees were constructed all the way from New Orleans to Cairo, Illinois by 1926. However, the river was not tamed, and there have been some major floods along it, including the Great Flood of 1993.

After 1993, the Army Corps of Engineers bought vast numbers of acres that had been flooded. They started to work with environmental groups, such as The Audubon Society to manage these lands for wildlife, especially birds, since the area is particularly vital to migrating birds. It is also a terrific place for bird watching.

Dr. Hagen spoke of several birding hot spots within the Riverlands area. Hot spots are areas that are especially rich with bird life during migration. These include Choteau, Ellis and Maple Islands. The Audubon Center hosts bird walks, as well as Great River Canoe Voyages and many other events to share the sanctuary with the public. The Center is open from 8-4, seven days a week and has wonderful viewing areas and exhibits.

Our thanks to Dr. Hagen and the Audubon Society for their great work.

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MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, May 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

NOTE: The May through September meetings will be held at **Powder Valley Nature Center**

Share and Show Nature Images

Members are invited to share up to **four (4) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for May is **Springtime**. Please follow the instructions on ***Uploading Share and Show Images*** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Compress your four resized images into a zip file.
- Send your zipped images via email to **share@monep.org by midnight, Friday, May 17th**.

May 21st Meeting – Ted MacRae

Entomologist and photographer, **Ted MacRae** will be the presenter at the May meeting. His talk will be on ***Approaching the Unapproachable: Tips and Tricks for Field Photography of Wary Insects***. Ted specializes in photographing tiger beetles in their natural habitats. These colorful beetles are fast runners and powerful fliers, making them among the more difficult insects to approach. Ted will describe some of the techniques that he uses to obtain close-up and macro photographs of these beautiful beetles and how these techniques can help when photographing other insects as well.

Ted is a research entomologist who pursues his passion for beetle taxonomy in his spare time. Interested in insects since childhood, he started collecting them seriously when he was in college and now has a collection of about 75,000 specimens. Ted also enjoys studying other areas of natural history and took up nature photography in 2007. He blogs about his experiences and thoughts on ***Beetles in the Bush*** at **http://beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com**.

In his biography on his blog, Ted writes, "I believe that to be a truly competent natural historian, one must understand not only the elements of their chosen specialty, but also the natural systems of which they are a part. Thus, I write not only about insects, but also the plants on which they depend and the natural communities in which they occur, the landforms that harbor these communities, and my experiences in exploring these landscapes."

May Field Trips
Thursday May 23rd and Saturday, May 25th

The May field trip will be offered on both **Thursday, May 23rd** and **Saturday, May 25th.** The destination is **The Glassberg Family Conservation Area** near Eureka. Members should meet at the **Commuter Parking Lot at Interstate - 44 and Highway 109 in Eureka at 6:30 a.m.** on either or both days to caravan to the field trip location.

The Glassberg Family Conservation Area is a fairly new addition to the Missouri Department of Conservation's sites. It encompasses parts of the LaBarque Creek and Meramec River watersheds. It is primarily forested with some old fields and a pond. The conservation area has a variety of different habitats and plant species, with both upland and bottomland forests. It is bordered to the north by the Meramec River.

In addition to your camera gear you may also want to bring along water, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and a snack. For more information on the field trip, please contact trip leaders **Bill Lubben** or **Randy Hunter**. Bill will lead the Thursday trip and can be reached at **314-965-2639**. Randy will lead the Saturday trip and he can be reached at **314-845-3914**.

Smoky Mountains:
Newfound Gap Road Re-Opened

There is great news for those headed to the Smokies this spring. Newfound Gap Road, which had been closed due to a landslide, has been repaired and is now open again. This route cuts through the park form the Tennessee side to the North Carolina side, and saves those crossing over much time and mileage. Visit the National Park Service website for updates and further information on the park at **www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit.**

Birds, Beer and Bluegrass!

Support **The Audubon Center at Riverlands** by attending their second annual ***Birds, Beer and Bluegrass!*** evening on **Saturday May 18th** from **5-9 p.m**. Join Audubon as they celebrate birds and nature while enjoying good food, craft beers and music. Dinner will be a tasty barbeque buffet. Bluegrass music will be provided by the ***Local Gents***, winner of the Riverfront Times 2011 "Best Bluegrass Band." There will also be a silent auction featuring on-the-water nature experiences, Cardinal tickets, bird-themed jewelry, wine baskets and more. The cost is $60 per person and **reservations are required**. Go to **http://riverlands.audubon.org/events** to reserve a spot or call **636-899-0090**.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers is to provide a forum for individuals interested in the field of nature photography and the environment, provide education, gather and disseminate information, and promote nature photography as an art form and medium of communication.

MoNEP meetings are held once a month. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the MoNEP web site.

MoNEP is an officially registered service mark. Use of the logo without MoNEP board approval is prohibited.

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.monep.org